

## SWRE MEMBERS HELP HOME FIRE VICTIMS

### EMERGENCY DONATIONS

In a span of a few weeks through February and March, four cooperative members in Oklahoma and Texas lost their homes to fires. SWRE members are helping other SWRE members—their neighbors—rise through the ashes with their donations to Operation Round Up (ORU).

SWRE members who are enrolled in ORU don't literally respond to a fire the same way our linemen would, but they are one of the first volunteers to lend a financial hand. ORU participants "round up" their electric bills to the nearest whole dollar each month. The average member donates 50 cents a month (six dollars a year) through their monthly bill. As funds are available, ORU can make emergency donations to SWRE members who have lost their homes in a fire or other natural disaster.

Thanks to participants, **ORU has made \$15,000 in emergency donations to SWRE members in need since 2018.**

### LINEMEN RESPOND AND RESTORE

When a fire burns through the service area, dispatch is first notified by the fire department or police if there is a structural fire. SWRE will turn off power to that location to protect the first responders working and anyone else on site. After the flames are put out on a structure and the location is safe, linemen will speak with the member about plans to reconnect electricity, but this is often a very tough and emotional conversation that requires the utmost compassion.

"One of the hardest calls to respond to is when a member loses their home in a fire," said David Ball, SWRE District Lineman. "These members are our neighbors, and we feel for them. Of course, the co-op will do whatever we can, but we've also been known to offer our personal time to help when we can."

It was reported that the fire in Kiowa County in mid-March burned ten thousand acres and destroyed homes, barns, and a railroad bridge in its path. SWRE crews patrolled the line to find damage, which was tough at times looking through the smoke.

Fire departments created roadblocks to prevent traffic in areas where the fire was still burning and SWRE crews were permitted through if the fire department and the linemen themselves deemed conditions safe. SWRE linemen replaced 54 poles that burned to the ground and restored electricity to members that were affected.



Photos from the Kiowa County fire are courtesy of SWRE linemen David Ball and Rick Risinger.

## CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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### Southwest Rural Electric

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Tipton, OK 73570-0310

Rebecca Chambless, *Power Source* editor

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SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Bill Pay Options:

SmartHub App  
[SWRE.com](http://SWRE.com)

1-833-890-9510 (*Automated Line*)

### Outage Reports:

1-833-590-0353  
SmartHub App

# "ROUND UP" FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

With the cost of just about everything on the rise, it is necessary to tighten up budgets. One item I encourage you to consider important is your monthly Operation Round Up Donation. Operation Round Up (ORU) is SWRE's charitable foundation and the funds that are collected benefit our members and communities.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Enrolled accounts contribute an average of 50 cents a month, or just six dollars a year. For example, if your monthly energy charge is \$132.50, your bill is rounded up to \$133.00, and 50 cents goes to Operation Round Up. Some members go above and beyond, opting into ORU *Plus* and increasing their monthly donation by \$1, \$5, \$10, etc.

If you are enrolled in ORU, you will see the "Operation Round Up Donation" line item on the back of your monthly power bill. To enroll your account(s) into ORU, or to increase your monthly donation with ORU *Plus*, call the cooperative at 1-800-256-7973.

### WHO BENEFITS FROM ORU?

The feature article on the front page of this newsletter highlighted the emergency donations that Operation Round Up makes to SWRE members who have lost their homes in fires or other natural disasters. For an average of \$6.00 a year, **members have made \$15,000 in emergency donations possible to SWRE members in need since 2018.** Emergency donations are made on an as needed basis when funds are available.

Each fall, ORU accepts grant applications from nonprofits and organizations who meet grant guidelines. The ORU Board of Directors is made up of five volunteers who are active SWRE members. The ORU Board reviews grant applications and disburses funds based on need and overall benefit to SWRE communities. For an average of \$6.00 a year, **members have made over \$165,000 in grant distributions possible since the program launched.** Organizations that have benefited greatly are your local volunteer fire departments, EMS crews, food pantries and soup kitchens, clothing closets, children in child protective services, senior citizens centers, schools, youth clubs, and so many more. See a full list of disbursements at [SWRE.com/RoundUp](http://SWRE.com/RoundUp).

What can you buy for \$6.00 in this day and age?

- One family size bag of your favorite name brand chocolate
- Several life-changing donations to nonprofits and SWRE members in need

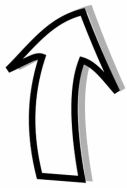
Your donation to ORU never leaves SWRE's service area and the "small change" our membership gives monthly adds up, changing lives across our Oklahoma and Texas footprint. I urge you to consider your participation in ORU a priority. //

Jeff Simpson  
CEO



# MEET WILLIE WIREDHAND OPERATION ROUND UP PARTICIPANT

MONTHLY ELECTRIC BILL ..... \$132.50  
AVG. MONTHLY ORU DONATION ..... \$0.50  
MONTHLY "ROUNDED UP" BILL .... \$133.00



AVG. ANNUAL DONATION

**\$6.00/year**

THANKS TO SMALL CHANGE FROM  
MEMBERS LIKE WILLIE



**\$165,000+**

GRANTS AWARDED TO  
SWRE COMMUNITIES  
SINCE 2018

**\$15,000+**

EMERGENCY DONATIONS  
TO SWRE MEMBERS IN  
NEED



## CUSTOMIZE YOUR MONTHLY DONATION & MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT



## COMMUNITY GRANTS AVAILABLE

APPLICATIONS OPEN  
AUGUST 1 - OCTOBER 1

AREAS OF ASSISTANCE  
COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION & YOUTH  
SENIOR CITIZENS  
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE  
INDIVIDUALS IN NEED

View grant guidelines  
(eligibility requirements)  
at [SWRE.com/RoundUp](http://SWRE.com/RoundUp).

### ORU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Geiger, Pres. .... Oklahoma  
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Jennie Buchanan .... Oklahoma  
Layne Chapman .... Texas

## Trading Post

**For Sale:** Case three-bottom moldboard plow. Asking \$250, cash sale only. Buyer must load. Request pictures by emailing [hwcs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hwcs@sbcglobal.net). For more information, call (940) 552-7402.

**For Sale:** King-size pillow top mattress and foundation. Legacy Aloe Vera brand. Pristine condition. Includes two new king-size pillows and one set of like-new king sheets. Asking \$500 or best offer. Also, one semi-circular TV table with opaque glass and mahogany wood. Asking \$25. Call (580) 569-4550.

**For Sale:** Looking for old advertising signs and older gas pumps. Call (580) 318-2850.

*FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Submissions must include the account holder's name and account number to be eligible. Ads are also posted on [SWRE.com](http://SWRE.com).*

*Send your ad to the marketing department by mail, e-mail or phone!*

*MAIL: P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570*

*E-MAIL: [marketing@swre.com](mailto:marketing@swre.com)*

*PHONE: 1-800-256-7973*



## HEIRLOOM BLT WITH PESTO

SERVING SIZE: 4

### INGREDIENTS:

#### *Pesto*

- 2 cups basil leaves, packed
- 2 garlic cloves
- ¼ cup pine nuts
- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup Parmigiano-Reggiano

#### *BLTs*

- 8 slices ciabatta bread
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup homemade basil pesto
- 8 oz applewood bacon, cooked
- 2 cups arugula
- 1 large heirloom tomato, sliced
- 4 eggs

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Add all pesto ingredients except olive oil into a food processor and blend. While on low, slowly pour olive oil into the food processor.
2. To assemble the sandwiches, place bread under an oven's broiler for 1 minute to get some nice, brown, toasty color and crunch.
3. On the soft side of one slice of the bread/toast, spread 1 tablespoon mayonnaise. On the other slice of bread, spread 2 tablespoons pesto.
4. Layer on the bacon, arugula, and tomato.
5. Fry eggs to desired yolk runniness. Place one egg on each sandwich and enjoy.

*Source: You can find this recipe by The Modern Proper <https://themodernproper.com/heirloom-blt-with-pesto>.*

# SWRE

Southwest Rural Electric Association, Inc.

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